

## Study 99: Isaiah, Part 55

### Isaiah 56

This is what the Lord says:

“Maintain justice

and do what is right,

**for my salvation [ישועה] is close at hand**

**and my righteousness will soon be revealed.**

[So, there are a couple of ways this could be taken:

- 1) That salvation (deliverance) from *Babylon* was near. This deliverance from Babylon became a type of that which was to come.
- 2) When Jesus, the true ישועה and antitype, comes on the scene, salvation (deliverance) from *sin* is near.]

<sup>2</sup> Blessed is the one who does this—

the person who holds it fast,

who keeps the Sabbath without desecrating it,

and keeps their hands from doing any evil.”

<sup>3</sup> Let no foreigner who is bound to the Lord say,

“The Lord will surely exclude me from his people.”

And let no eunuch complain,

“I am only a dry tree.” [Deut 23:1 – eunuchs were excluded from the congregation of Israel]

<sup>4</sup> For this is what the Lord says:

“To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,

who choose what pleases me

and hold fast to my covenant—

<sup>5</sup> to them I will give within my temple and its walls

a memorial and a name

better than sons and daughters; [cp. 2 Sam 18:18; Rev 3:12]

I will give them an everlasting name

that will endure forever. [Acts 8:26-39]

<sup>6</sup> And foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord

to minister to him,

to love the name of the Lord,

and to be his servants,

all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it

and who hold fast to my covenant—

<sup>7</sup> these I will bring to my holy mountain

and give them joy in my house of prayer.

Their burnt offerings and sacrifices

will be accepted on my altar;

for my house will be called

a house of prayer for all nations.”

<sup>8</sup> The Sovereign Lord declares—

he who gathers the exiles of Israel:

“I will gather still others to them

besides those already gathered.” [John 10:16]

<sup>9</sup> Come, all you beasts of the field,

come and devour, all you beasts of the forest!

<sup>10</sup> Israel’s watchmen are blind,

they all lack knowledge; [cp Matt 15:14]

they are all mute dogs,

they cannot bark;

they lie around and dream,

they love to sleep.

<sup>11</sup> They are dogs with mighty appetites;  
they never have enough.  
They are shepherds who lack understanding;  
they all turn to their own way,  
they seek their own gain.  
<sup>12</sup> “Come,” each one cries, “let me get wine!  
Let us drink our fill of beer!  
And tomorrow will be like today,  
or even far better.”